Remarks

The drawings have been objected to as failing to comply with 37 CFR 1.84(p)(4) in regards to reference characters "26" and "20" designating a "base". The specification has been corrected at paragragh 22 and 23 to remove reference to a base in regards to "20" and to refer to "20" as the first structural member 20.

The drawings have been objected to under 37 CFR 1.83(a) in regards to claims claiming a circular cross section. The claims including such have been cancelled.

In that the amendments to the specification and the claims have removed these drawing objections a copy of proposed drawing corrections is not included.

The abstract has been objected to. The abstract has been corrected as shown in the Amendment to the Specification.

The disclosure has been objected to in terms of the phrase at lines 14-15 of page 13. Paragraph 34 has been amended to correct such as shown in the Amendment to the Specification.

Claims 1 and 25 have been objected to because of informalities. The amendments to claims 1 and 25 have corrected such.

Claims 1-25 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112. The claims have been amended to remove such rejections.

Claims 1-10, 15, 16, 22, 24, and 25 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as anticipated by US Patent 2232667 to Saurer. The claims have been amended to distinctly claim the invention. The amended claims are not disclosed or taught by US Patent 2232667 to Saurer. Applicant note that Saurer discloses at page 3, left hand column lines 17-20 that "second rubber body 144, slightly smaller than the body 142, is received between, and usually vulcanized to, the flanges 145 of the abutment plate." Saurer does not disclose a load bearing member and a rebound member that both have resilient members having unbonded outer surfaces distal from an inner rigid member,

with the outer resilient member unbonded outer surface having an inwardly directed taper proximate a seat end, with the outer resilient member having a resilient portion between the rebound member outer resilient member unbonded outer surface inwardly directed taper and an inner rigid member inwardly directed taper. The presently amended claims are not anticipated or obviated by US Patent 2232667 to Saurer.

Claims 1-3, 5, 9 and 17 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by US Patent 4,399,987 to Cucelli et al. The claims have been amended to distinctly claim the invention. The amended claims are not disclosed or taught by US Patent 4,399,987 to Cucelli et al. Applicant note that Cucelli discloses at column 2, linese 49- 51 that "flared surface 18 to which is fixed the outer surface of a substantially bell-shaped annular elastomeric element 20" and at column 3, lines 7-10 that "the annular elastomeric diaphragm 46 is fixed to a metal ring 48 which is adjacent the inner surface of the support body 10 and is locked axially between the sleeve 16 and an annular shoulder 50". Cucelli does not disclose a load bearing member and a rebound member that both have resilient members having unbonded outer surfaces distal from an inner rigid member, with the outer resilient member unbonded outer surface having an inwardly directed taper proximate a seat end, with the outer resilient member having a resilient portion between the rebound member outer resilient member unbonded outer surface inwardly directed taper and an inner rigid member inwardly directed taper. The presently amended claims are not anticipated or obviated by US Patent 4,399,987 to Cucelli.

Claims 1-3,5-10, 15, 16, 17, 18 and 25 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by US Patent 2,179,959 to Schroedter. The claims have been amended to distinctly claim the invention. The amended claims are not disclosed or taught by US Patent 2,179,959 to Schroedter. Applicant note that the rubber rings (5,11,12,17,18) are not bonded to any of the tapered faces of the tapered members and that the rings are purposively adapted to roll freely in axial directions for relative displacement between the members. Schroedter does not disclose a load bearing member and a rebound member that both have resilient members having

unbonded outer surfaces distal from a bonded to inner rigid member, with the outer resilient member unbonded outer surface having an inwardly directed taper proximate a seat end, with the outer resilient member having a resilient portion between the rebound member outer resilient member unbonded outer surface inwardly directed taper and a bonded to inner rigid member inwardly directed taper. The presently amended claims are not anticipated or obviated by US Patent 2,179,959 to Schroedter.

Claims 11-14 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Saurer in view of US Patent 5,996,981 to Dilling in view of US Patent 3,584,858 to Beck. Claims 13-14 have been cancelled. Claims 11-12 are dependent on claim 1. The proposed combination results in the second rubber body 144 vulcanized bonded to the flanges 145 of the abutment plate with the rubber body 144 now having a cross-section area variable along an axis with the cross section circular or elliptical. Such combination does not render the amended claims obvious in that the rubber body 144 is still bonded to flanges 145. The presently amended claims are not obviated by the proposed combination.

Claims 11-14 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Cucelli in view of US Patent 5,996,981 to Dilling in view of Beck. Claims 13-14 have been cancelled. Claims 11-12 are dependent on claim 1. The proposed combination results in the substantially bell-shaped annular elastomeric element 20 and the annular elastomeric diaphragm 46 with the bonded outer surfaces now having a cross-section area variable along an axis with the cross section circular or elliptical. Such combination does not render the amended claims obvious in that the elastomeric body outer surfaces are still bonded. The presently amended claims are not obviated by the proposed combination.

Claims 11-14 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Schroedter in view of US Patent 5,996,981 to Dilling in view of Beck. Claims 13-14 have been cancelled. Claims 11-12 are dependent on claim 1. Applicants contend that the proposed combination is improper in that the Office Action states that

it would have been obvious to modify the load bearing members of Schroedter to have included a cross-section with an area variable along a mount axis as taught by Dilling in order to prevent stress and strain concentration, in that such a cross-section would defeat the Schroedter load bearing ring members function of rolling freely. The proposed combination results in the unbonded rolling rings now having a cross-section area variable along an axis with the cross section circular or elliptical. Such combination does not render the amended claims obvious in that the unbonded rings are still unbonded. The presently amended claims are not obviated by the proposed combination.

Claims 19-20 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Schroedter in view of US Patent 5,147,552 to Hodgson. The proposed combination results in the elastic support of Schroedter having a H shaped base. Such combination does not render the amended claims obvious in that the unbonded rings are still unbonded. The presently amended claims are not obviated by the proposed combination.

Claims 18 has been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Cucelli in view of Schroedter. The proposed combination results in the housing of Cucelli being unitary as taught by FIG. 4 of Schroedter. Applicants contend that with such a combination the substantially bell-shaped annular elastomeric element 20 and the annular elastomeric diaphragm 46 would still have bonded outer surfaces now bonded to the unitary housing. Such combination does not render the amended claims obvious in that the elastomeric body outer surfaces are still bonded. The presently amended claims are not obviated by the proposed combination.

Claims 20,21, and 23 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Cucelli in view of Schroedter in view of US Patent 5,147,552 to Hodgson. The proposed combination results in the housing of Cucelli being unitary as taught by FIG. 4 of Schroedter with the mount base and attachment flanges of Hodgson. Applicants contend that with such a combination the substantially bell-

shaped annular elastomeric element 20 and the annular elastomeric diaphragm 46 would still have bonded outer surfaces now bonded to the unitary housing which has a H-shaped mount base with attachment flanges. Such combination does not render the amended claims obvious in that the elastomeric body outer surfaces are still bonded. The presently amended claims are not obviated by the proposed combination.

The amendments place the application in condition for allowance. The invention as now claimed is not disclosed or taught by the references. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests allowance of amended claims .

Miscellaneous

Examiner is authorized to charge deposit account 12-2143 the amount required for a two-month extension of time for filing a response to the Office Action.

In light of the amendments and Remarks herein, Applicant submits that claims as amended are in condition for allowance. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the claim rejections and allowance of the amended claims are respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

Edward F. Murphy, III
Attorney for Applicant
Reg. No. 38,251
919-468-5979 ext. 6205
Lord Corporation
111 Lord Drive
Cary, North Carolina 27502